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# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK

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## THE PARIS CONFERENCE

No definite word has come as yet (at the date of our going to press) of the precise time in June next when the nursing conference of the International Council of Nurses will be held, but we will in all probability be able to announce this finally in January. Nor is the exact programme yet to hand, but it will not be a very elaborate one, as we want to have time for talk and discussion and informal conference. We will have, however, the latest reports from all countries as to nursing organization; education, practical and theoretical; and state registration. We also hope to hear some details from the various nursing journals which are controlled or edited by nurses. Miss Nutting has promised to write on "The Practical Training and Education of Nurses," and we will have this translated into French.

Miss Van Vollenhoven, a Holland nurse, who has been some years in America, has offered to write on "Opportunities, Advantages, and Difficulties of the Foreign Nurse in America," and this (which she will write in French) will doubtless be of special practical interest to our foreign sisters. The French sympathizers and friends are showing much interest already, and for their kind sakes it is to be hoped that we shall have a good gathering of bright and progressive women. They will show us the French hospitals and the new nursing schools, and it will be a great opportunity to learn something of French movements and progress.

It is hardly necessary to say that there will not be enough of us to get any special rates on steamships. Every one will have to go in the ordinary way and look out for herself after she gets there. We shall, however, later in the winter, publish the name and address of a central hotel where the officers will lodge, and which may be regarded as a headquarters. We also remind all our readers that official and formal delegates with formal credentials are not in the plan for this gathering, as no regular business is to be transacted. The meetings, the floor, and the discussions will be open to all, and nurses from any country and any

organization, or those not belonging to any, will be welcome. We shall commit ourselves to nothing but friendly acquaintance at this conference. No new members (countries) can be admitted, but if any are inclined to like the idea of international unity, and wish to join our ranks, the regular meeting in 1909 (probably in Canada, though this is not absolutely certain,) will be the regular business meeting at which new affiliations will be made. At that time we will welcome with open arms any national associations of nurses which are founded on the principles we require for membership, viz.: democratic principles; the principles of equality and self-government, under which the nurses of an association have their voice and vote in its policy and progress.

L. L. Dock,

Secretary International Council of Nurses.



IN the little town of Buctouch, near Moncton, N. B., a primitive and simple-minded Acadian Frenchman, struck with the spirit of progress and commercialism, attempted to boom his town as a pleasure and health resort.

To the summer visitor he said: "Oh, dis a nice plas, all kin's of fruit grow 'ere, the oyster she grow 'ere, the lobster she grow 'ere, oh, dis a nice plas. *Leeve, leeve* long time! I got gran'mudder he be 'under'd year ole, he go 'bout the 'ouse do all his own work, nice plas."

AMONG the same French people a fisherman had the misfortune to lose his son at a time when an extra mouth was not a burden, as it sometimes happens to be with the poor fishermen on the north coast, and he expressed his regret and wonder at the dispensation which deprived him of his son at such an inauspicious time: "Plenty *feesh*, plenty pot-a-to. Could keep him jus' well as not."